

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 8, 2003. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and claims 1-6 remain in the present application. Applicants' counsel appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Parker during the personal interview conducted on November 25, 2003. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 as agreed to during the interview to place that claim, and claims depending therefrom, in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Independent claim 4 recites a non-contact method of coating an elongated band with liquid material dispensed in a pattern from an outlet of a liquid dispenser. The recited method comprises the steps of moving the band in a direction toward the outlet with one of the major surfaces of the band facing the outlet, guiding the band spaced from the outlet with a dispensing axis of the outlet intersecting the major surface of the band facing the outlet at an oblique angle, and dispensing liquid material from the outlet toward the band with the pattern of the dispensed liquid material expanding during flight toward the band so as to coat the band with the liquid material. Since the dispensing axis of the outlet intersects the major surface of the band facing the outlet at an oblique angle, Applicants

respectfully submit that this orientation of the dispensing axis of the outlet relative to the major surface of the band is necessarily present during the recited dispensing step. During the personal interview, it was agreed that independent claim 4, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable as well. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-6 should be withdrawn as each of these claims is allowable as indicated in the Interview Summary.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.


DEC. 23. 2003 3:40PM

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NO. 7918 P. 13/13

Respectfully submitted,

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